

II. LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for approving item requests, comprising:

receiving an item request for an item from a requestor;

dynamically generating an approval list for the item request based on application of a set of rules to the item, the set of rules including item-based rules and safety-based rules, the approval list being a hierarchy of approvers that includes all approvers, including all supervisors, financial personnel and safety personnel, from which approval must be obtained;

automatically determining an approver and any subsequent approver from the hierarchy based on an item in an item request, the subsequent approver being someone from whom approval must be obtained subsequent to approval being obtained from the approver;

logging the approver into an application used to make item requests;

displaying by the application a view containing a set of item requests to the approver containing all item requests from all requestors for which approval is requested from the approver, the set of item requests including a plurality of item requests from a plurality of requesters;

receiving an approval determination for at least one of the set of item requests from the approver, wherein the receiving is adapted to receive a plurality of approval determinations from the approver simultaneously;

updating an approver list corresponding to the at least one of the set of item requests based on the approval determination; and

in case that the hierarchy contains any subsequent approver and the approval determination by the approver is that of the at least one of the set of item requests being approved, automatically forwarding an approval message to the subsequent approver in the approver list after the updating step.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving comments from the approver based on the approval determination.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying, by the application, an informational message to the approver, prior to receiving the approval determination, at least a portion of the informational message pertaining to safety information.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

automatically communicating, based on receipt of the at least one item request, an approval message to the approver prior to the logging step, wherein the approval message informs the approver of the at least one item request requiring approval.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising verifying an authorization of the approver to make the approval determination.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating a result message to a requestor based on the approval determination.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising updating an approval status corresponding to the at least one item request, wherein the approval status is selected from the group consisting of approved, rejected and pending.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the approval determination is selected from the group consisting of approved and rejected.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the approver list identifies approvers that have approved the at least one item request, and approvers that have yet to approve the at least one item request.

10-31. (Canceled)